

THE BRITISH COLONIST

Thursday Morning, Dec. 22, 1864.

To Advertisers & the Public.

THE BRITISH COLONIST
is the only newspaper in the world which is published every morning (Wednesday excepted). It is the only newspaper in the world which is published every morning (Wednesday excepted).

President Buchanan may have the same left at Washington, D. C., as he did at the time of his resignation, but he will be removed by the end of the year.

THE BRITISH COLONIST, Vol. 1, No. 1, Oct. 1, 1864.

JOB PRINTING.
THE BRITISH COLONIST PUBLISHES THE LARGEST AND MOST POPULAR OF ALL THE NEWSPAPERS IN THE WORLD. It is printed in a large jobbing type, will execute orders to and extent, and is published at a slight advance on San Francisco prices.

THE REPORTED FALL OF SAVANNAH.

In today's issue we give the reported fall of Savannah and the capture by Sherman of 4000 men. The G. S. Wright will probably write to-day with a confirmation or refutation of the report. We, however, do not see much reason to doubt the correctness of the statement. In the latest news from Southern sources—the Richmond Dispatch of the 13th—we find that Sherman was within five miles of Savannah, and that he was on the eve of a battle. Another paper asserts that the communication between Savannah and Charleston had been destroyed for several days. This latter fact was, no doubt, accomplished by the Federal general Foster, for he held, as we stated yesterday, a position on the line of railway between Charleston and Savannah. Sherman had reached within five miles of the latter city at the time the Richmond papers speak of his having nearly taken it by assault and captured its garrison. The position of Foster precluded any reinforcement, arriving by way of Charleston, and few could have gone byway of Atlanta, so that, in all probability, Sherman had to fight an indecisive army, of crude materials, hastily collected together as auxiliaries to the garrison, which could not be held have numbered many thousand men. Headings might possibly have forwarded some troops to Savannah's assistance; but we have been obliged to take from Macon to Albany by rail, and thence by a wagon road to Thomasville station in Southern Georgia, which is connected by rail with Savannah—we think the probabilities are against it. Assuming that Sherman has succeeded in capturing the principal city in Georgia, the second city is the State—Atlanta is bound also to fall. The town is situated about 150 miles to the north-west of Savannah by water communication, and is the head of navigation on the Savannah river. With the latter city, in the hands of the Federals, the light draft gun-boats will no doubt be able, especially at the present season of the year, when it is approaching high water, to make their way to Augusta. As the river forms the boundary line of South Carolina and Georgia, it can easily be perceived that its possession virtually cuts the Confederate armies, and accomplishes what we have all along maintained was Sherman's great object in his invasion of the latter State. There is, however, another, and to the Northerners' mind a more satisfactory, fact looming in the distance—the taking of Charleston. The large Federal force that can be speedily massed against this famous city, if Savannah is in the hands of Sherman, makes the Southern tenure of Charleston exceedingly slender. The Federal force under Forrest already holds a strong position about sixty miles from the city of Charleston, and is now in likelihood waiting in conjunction with Sherman. All this while Hood is busily engaged in Tennessee, wasting his forces in extensive operations against General Thomas. Grant's movements continue to be slow but still progressive. Butler at present holds a position from which it is thought Richmond can be shelled. The Dutch Gap canal, which has been suffering a heavy and continuous fire from the Confederate batteries, is as yet, according to the Richmond papers, ready for the final blast, which will admit the water. When the gunboats have gone through this artificial water-course Grant will no doubt make his great offensive movement. The delay, hitherto, has been on the completion of the canal. The despatches speak of continued reinforcements arriving to the Federal commander, so that we may presume Grant to have at the present time little short of 200,000 men—the largest force the civilised world has ever seen besieging the strongest of an enemy.

THE CAPTAINS' EVIL.

Yesterday, as an official of Washington Territory was proceeding to the steamer en route to Washington, he was arrested on a *capias* for a debt contracted in Washington Territory. This, however, is a small part of the joke. The arrest was made on a bill for cord wood or lumber to the amount of \$250, which, of course, was liable in Washington Territory to be liquidated by checks; but our bungling jurisprudence allows the creditor to arrest the debtor for \$250 in gold, or for an amount considerably over a hundred per cent, more than the legal liability. The gentleman is obliged to stand bonds for this sum, and a further enticement into the expense of \$10, all of which falls largely in favor of Victoria, as affording especial facilities for travellers. We shall resort to the matter in more detail, but in the meantime, would suggest that our free port should be more definitely defined; for instance, a port in which everything that "enters" is free, but everything that attempts to "clear" is placed in bond.

AUSTRALIA.

By the sonorous Schab Jahan, who arrived in San Francisco on the 9th instant, in sixty-five days from Sydney, N. S. W., we learn the following Australian news to Oct. 4th:

STEAM VESSELS IN THE AUSTRALIAN COAST.—The Sydney Morning Herald relates that the first steam vessel engaged in intercolonial commerce, which shows the following total: 105 steam vessels, with a gross register of 2,457 tons and 5,265 horse-power.

The Gold Fields of VICTORIA.—A statistical account of the field of the gold fields of the colony of Victoria, Australia, shows that the six months from the 1st of January to the 1st of June, the total of gold produced, including 2000 lbs. of silver, has been 1,000,000 lbs., which have been engrossed in the work.

The steamer New Moon, bound from the Macleay to Sydney, was lost at Hauraki Bay, near Port Stephens, on Saturday night, 1st October. With the exception of one man, named Richard Daly, all on board—eleven were perished.

Woolfords are firm at Melbourne; a party of California deer were placed on the market at \$35. Quail birds were sold at 10¢. A. M. Weston.

Thomas De Lucy Morris, the Colonial Treasurer, died suddenly at Hobart on the 2d Oct. Mr. Herbert is resting in his place.

CASE FLOWERS ROAD.—Mr. John Morris has terminated the contract for grading and clearing "Case Flowers" to Burnside Road.

LATEST EASTERN NEWS.

DATED BY TELEGRAPHIC WIRE.

New York, Dec. 10.—Richmond papers of the 7th are filled with speculations in regard to an important movement which is to be made by what they expect. They are entirely confident that Grant has been reinforced by the 6th corps, and that he will be supported by Kilpatrick's fresh division. The rebel General Jackson has been sent to the Gulf, and is expected to reach Mobile by the 1st of January. He is to command the troops against the Confederates. Every house in Mobile is prepared to receive him.

Headquarters, Army of the Potomac, Dec. 2.—Yesterday at 12 m. the Fifth Corps and 2d division of the Second Corps, with two brigades of cavalry, crossed the Rappahannock, and advanced to the right bank. The rebels had withdrawn across the river, and are now encamped for ready driving the troops against the Confederates. Every house in Fredericksburg is prepared to receive them.

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The Daily Spy says the rebels under Lee, who are still at Fredericksburg, are preparing to meet our advance force, but as nothing has been heard from them in this direction, it is not believed that they will attack us.

A reconnoitring party who went out yesterday morning were engaged in skirmishing with the rebels, who had been driven across the river, and were now encamped on the opposite bank. Some of those who accompanied the party say that the first firing was heard in the direction of Stony Creek, which indicates that the fighting was going on between Lee and Grant.

Reports are current that the evacuation of Fredericksburg may be looked for at an early day.

The Daily Spy says the Richmond papers of the 6th say that nothing has been done by the Confederate War Department regarding Lee's movements.

No news of exchanges has been received later than the 3d of December.

New York, Dec. 11.—The Richmond Examiner says that Grant has been reinforced by 8,000 to 10,000 men from Western Australia, to the number of 100,000.

Do you know of any news of the movement of the rebels? I am told that Grant has been reinforced by 8,000 to 10,000 men from Western Australia, to the number of 100,000.

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